

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable consideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

In the final rejection dated July 25, 2005 in parent application Serial No. 10/686,646, Claims 1-5, 8-17, 20-24 and 26-33 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Amemiya et al in view of Applicant's admitted prior art and Asano et al and Claim 25 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Amemiya et al in view of Applicant's admitted prior art and Asano et al and further in view of Hiroshima et al. New Claims 35 and 36 have been added and thus, Claims 1-5, 8-17, 20-33, 35 and 36 remain active.

Considering first then the rejection of Claims 1-5, 8-17, 20-24 and 26-33 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Amemiya et al in view of Applicant's admitted prior art and Asano et al, Applicants submit that it would not be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to look to Asano et al, and more particularly the brush 20 of the charging device 20 thereof, to modify the brush member 20 of Amemiya et al. More specifically, while brush 20 of Amemiya et al is used as a number to contact and remove toner particles, the brush 20 of Asano et al is only disclosed as being a charging device to charge the surface of the photoconductor and there is no disclosure set forth therein as to the fact that the brush 20 can be used as a cleaning means. It is therefore clear that it would not be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to look to Asano et al to modify the brush of Amemiya et al since the nature and intended use of the brush 20 of Asano et al differs from that of Amemiya et al. Furthermore, even if the brush 20 of Asano et al is used in combination with Amemiya et al, it would be used as a substitute for the charge roller 2 of Amemiya et al and thus not teach Applicant's claimed invention of providing a brush member which comprises a conductive material and a fiber material that is positively charged when rubbed with toner particles and

which has a resistance value as claimed, said brush member also being claimed as being configured to contact and to remove negatively charged toner particles from a member. In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that it would not be obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art to combine the teachings of Amano et al with that of Amemiya et al and that therefore the rejection of independent Claims 1 and 13, as well as all the claims dependent therefrom merits withdrawal.

Applicants further submit that each of the claims dependent from Claim 1, including Claims 2-12 and each of the claims dependent upon Claim 13, including Claims 14-26 contain additional limitations having no corresponding teaching or disclosure in the prior art. In view of these limitations and in view of the dependency of such claims upon either independent Claim 1 or 13, it is submitted that these dependent claims also merit indication of allowability.

On the basis of the forgoing arguments with respect to the non-obviousness of combining with the teachings of Asano et al with that of Amemiya et al, it is further submitted that Claim 27, which claims the cleaning apparatus having means for removing negatively charged toner particles attached to a member, the means for removing comprising a conductive material and a fiber material that is positively charged also merits indication of allowability as well as all claims dependent therefrom. New Claims 35 and 36 served to further define the charging device of Claims 10 and 23, respectively by claiming that the charging device comprises a charge roller. Insofar as these limitations also have no teaching or disclosure in the above-noted references, it is submitted that such also merit indication of allowability.

In view of the foregoing, an early and favorable Office Action is believed to be in order and the same is hereby respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

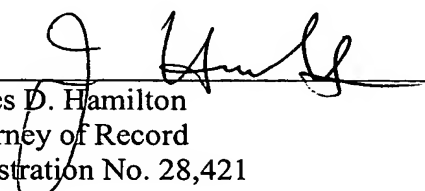
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